

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson****Markup: H.R. 2830 “The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007”**

September 25, 2007 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the full Committee Markup for H.R. 2830, “The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007”

“The Committee is meeting today to consider H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007. I am pleased this Committee is being afforded the opportunity to exercise its jurisdictional prerogatives. As you are aware, this bill, which authorizes more than \$8.3 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard for fiscal year 2008 originated on June 20th with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Under Chairman Oberstar’s leadership, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee produced a robust bill that covers both the Coast Guard’s non-homeland security activities--like search and rescue and marine safety-- as well as port security.

The ‘Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute’ that I authored with Mr. King and other Committee Members will enhance the port security provisions of the bill. This amendment is a reflection of our Committee’s oversight of the Coast Guard. There is general bipartisan agreement on the Committee about what the Coast Guard should be doing to tighten security around LNG facilities or make the TWIC program work. The amendment is representative of these agreements as well as the ‘meeting of the minds’ in a number of other areas.”

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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